

5. Bibliographical Essay

Much has been written over the years about John Smith, the Chesapeake Bay, the Native peoples of the region, and the histories of the several English colonies established around the Bay. There are also a vast number of archaeological site reports on file in the state historic preservation offices of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, as well as soil surveys, environmental analyses, and other esoteric documentation. For the purposes of this report—to describe the early history of the Virginia colony as it relates to John Smith's Chesapeake voyages—a few important works are discussed below, and some others are listed as well.

Captain John Smith's Chesapeake Bay Voyages

A detailed day-by-day itinerary of Smith's voyages has been put together by Helen C. Rountree, Wayne E. Clark, Kent Mountford, et al., in "John Smith's Chesapeake Voyages, 1607–1609," a draft report (2005) that is currently being revised for publication by the University of Virginia Press. The report discusses the Bay's seventeenth-century environment, the world of the Native peoples who lived there then, the coming of the English, Smith's voyages, and the various rivers and drainages that feed the Bay. An epilogue brings the story of the Bay up to date, and a very detailed bibliography lists virtually everything ever published about the Bay, its history, and its environment.

Primary Sources

The principal sources for descriptions of Smith's voyages on the Chesapeake Bay and his other experiences in Virginia are three of his own works: *A True Relation of such occurrences and accidents of noate as hath hapned in Virginia since the first planting of that Collony* (1608), *A Map of Virginia* (1612), and *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles*. The standard edition of Smith's writings is Philip L. Barbour, ed., *The Complete Works of Captain John Smith*, 3 vols. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986). Virtually everything the other colonists wrote during the period is in Edward Wright Haile, ed., *Jamestown Narratives: Eyewitness Accounts of the Virginia Colony: The First Decade: 1607–1617* (Champlain, Va.: RoundHouse, 1998), with modernized spelling. Among the "eyewitnesses" were Gabriel Archer, Samuel Argall, Thomas Dale, Thomas Gates, George Percy, and John Rolfe. For similar documentation of the Maryland colony, see Clayton C. Hall, ed., *Narratives of Early Maryland, 1633–1684* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910).

Secondary Sources

Helen C. Rountree, Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Old Dominion University, is one of the foremost authorities on the Powhatan Indians. Her books include *The Powhatan Indians of Virginia: Their Traditional Culture* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1989) and *Pocahontas's People: The Powhatan Indians of Virginia Through Four Centuries* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1990). With Thomas E. Davidson, she wrote *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1997) and, with E. Randolph Turner III, *Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their Predecessors* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida). Her most recent book is *Pocahontas, Powhatan, Opechancanough: Three*

Indian Lives Changed by Jamestown (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2005), in which she tells the story of the Powhatan, Jamestown, and John Smith through Indian eyes. Though necessarily speculative in nature, her study examines the era from a perspective with which the public has little familiarity.

Several other works were especially helpful in preparing this report. Frederic W. Gleach, lecturer and curator of anthropology at Cornell University, in *Powhatan's World and Colonial Virginia: A Conflict of Cultures* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), describes how these two cultures, with their very different worldviews, attempted to “civilize” and incorporate each into the other’s polity. James Horn, O’Neill Director of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, wrote *A Land as God Made It* (New York: Basic Books, 2005). In this more conventional study of the origins and history of the Jamestown colony, Horn suggests that John Smith’s 1609 powder-bag “accident” was in fact a murder attempt by disgruntled colonists. Everett Emerson, the late Alumni Distinguished Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, examined Smith’s writings as literature in *Captain John Smith, Revised Edition* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1993). Camilla Townsend, associate professor of history at Colgate University, who wrote *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma: An American Portrait* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2004), places the story of Pocahontas within the context of the cultural conflict between the Powhatan and the English settlers.

Other books about the history of the era and the region that the reader may wish to consult are listed below.

Barbour, Philip L. *The Three Worlds of Captain John Smith*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1964.

Beverley, Robert. *The History and Present State of Virginia* [1705]. Louis B. Wright, ed. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

Carr, Lois G., Philip D. Morgan, and Jean B. Russo, eds. *Colonial Chesapeake Society*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988.

Dent, Richard J. *Chesapeake Prehistory: Old Traditions, New Directions*. New York: Plenum Press, 1995.

Engelbrecht, William. *Iroquoia: The Development of a Native World*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2003.

Fitzhugh, William W. *Cultures in Contact: The Impact of European Contacts on Native American Cultural Institutions, A.D. 1000–1800*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985.

Hume, Ivor Noel. *The Virginia Adventure: Roanoke to James Towne: An Archaeological and Historical Odyssey*. New York: Knopf, 1994.

Kelso, William M., with Blythe Straub. *Jamestown Rediscovery 1994–2004*. Richmond: Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, 2004.

Lemay, J. A. Leo. *The American Dream of Captain John Smith*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1991.

Lippson, Alice J., and Robert L. Lippson. *Life in Chesapeake Bay*. 2d ed. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

Porter, Frank W. *Indians in Maryland and Delaware: A Critical Biography*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1979.

Potter, Stephen R. *Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1993.

Sharpe, J. A. *Early Modern England: A Social History, 1550–1760*. London: Arnold, 1987.

Stephenson, Richard W., and Marianne M. McKee. *Virginia in Maps: Four Centuries of Settlement, Growth, and Development*. Richmond: Library of Virginia, 2000.

Wallace, Paul A. W. *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1971.

Whitney, Gordon G. *From Coastal Wilderness to Fruited Plain: A History of Environmental Change in Temperate North America from 1500 to the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Youings, Joyce. *Sixteenth-Century England*. Pelican Social History of Britain Series. London: Penguin, 1984.